A Faithful Account
Of the Late
DREADFUL
FIRE
in *SOUTHVVARK*.

Begun on *Friday* the *26th.* of *May*, 1676. At three of the Clock in the morning, and in the ſpace of twenty hours deſtroyed near Five Hundred Houſes, ſeveral People, and Goods, to an ineſtimable Value.

The Names of the moſt Conſiderable Places, are as followeth.

St. *Mary Overy's* Church
St. *Thomas Hoſpital* } Shattered and Defaced.

From *Chain-Gate* in the *Burrough*, to the *Counter* on St. *Margarets-Hill*, on both ſides of the way
The *Market-houſe*
Angel-Court
Three-Crown-Court
Fow'l-Lane
Counter-Lane
Back-ſide of the Counter
Part of St. *Thomas*, &c. } Burnt and Demoliſhed.

Licenſed, May 29. 1676. Roger L'Eſtrange.

Printed for Thomas Pierce.

A Faithful Account

Of the Late

DREADFUL

FIRE

in SOUTHWARK

Begun on Friday the 26th. of May, 1676. At three of the Clock in the morning, and in the space of twenty hours destroyed near Five Hundred Houses, several People, and Goods, to an inestimable Value.

The Names of the most Considerable Places, are as followeth.

St. Mary Overy's Church
St. Thomas Hospital
} Shattered and Defaced.

From Chain-Gate in the Burrough, to the Counter on St. Margarets-Hill, on both sides of the way
The Market-house
Angel Court
Three-Crown-Court
Fowl-Lane
Counter-Lane
Back-side of the Counter
Part of St. Thomas, &c.
} Burnt and Demolished.

Licensed, May 29, 1676. Roger L'Estrange.

Printed for Thomas Pierce.

A Faithful Account of the late *Dreadful Fire in* Southvvark, &c.

Outhwark was lately known to be a ſpacious *Burrough*, and a place of a great trade, full of Houſes and Inhabitants, and thoſe for the moſt part wealthy, which I recite to make the Reader the more apprehenſive of the great Deſolation made there by the late Dreadful Fire, and of the Damage many of the now really poor Inhabitants have ſuſtained thereby.

It began on *Friday* the 2*d*. of this instant *May*, about three of the Clock in the Morning at an Oyl-shop over-against the *Counter*, upon *St. Margarets-hill*, which is as it were the very heart of the *Burrough*, the Wind *Southerly*, and blowing very fresh, so that it burnt not very considerably to Wind-ward, but burnt its chief fury down the Street towards the Bridge, and notwithstanding a present alarm given, and a great concourse of people, with an imaginable expedition in bringing of Engines, in very little time it got a considerable head on both sides of the way, insomuch that the Engines being overpowered and able to do but little good, they were forced to betake themselves to blowing up of Houses, which they did for some time with pretty good success, but as the morning came on, such an innumerable company of Spectators were flocked together, that instead of assistance, they proved a very great hinderance to the Engineers, who durst not blow up the Houses they design'd, for fear of doing mischief to those crowds of People that were about them. Notwithstanding which care of theirs, many were so resolute or heedless as to run into the mouth of danger by which means many suffered in their lives and limb's, besides others supposed to be burned in their beds, to a number not yet to be computed.

This

This hurry and diſtraction continuing all the day the Fire encres'd, the houſes being for the moſt part old and timber-built, with the violence of the Wind, contributing to its fury, inſomuch that about noon it had reach'd the Market-houſe, and endangered the Hoſpital of *St. Thomas*, and St. *Mary Overy's Church*, whereupon the people began to blow up houſes at a great diſtance, and to play their Engines more violently againſt the Hoſpital and Houſes adjacent; ſo that by four or five in the Afternoon, it was brought into a narrower compaſs, and the fury of it ſeem'd to be ſomewhat abated, and towards the Evening, as the company began to draw homewards, ſome perſons of Eminence undertaking to give the Engineers inſtructions, and encouragement by Rewards, and their own perſonal hazards, they at laſt conquered this cruel Tyrant, and by eleven at night got ſo much the maſterdom that there appeared no further danger.

But for the ſatisfaction of ſuch as live more remote, and in regard of their own or their Relations concerns expect a more particular account the fire deſtroyed as followeth.

From

From the Cock and Hart yard neer the Spur-Inn, down to St. *Thomas*'s Hoſpital, *Viz.* The Talbot, the George, the White-Hart, the Kings-head, the Queens-head, Inns; Together with their Back-houſes, Stables, Barns, and Ware-houſes all burn'd down to the ground; The Hoſpital very much defaced, and the houſes backward burn'd as far as St. *Thomas's* Church-yard, and the fronting-houſes of that ſide of the way much ſhattered for a conſiderable way; from within a houſe or two of Pepper-Alley, on the other-ſide many houſes towards the Market likewiſe much ſhatter'd, and from below Chain-gate up to the Counter, upon St. *Margrets*-hill, burn'd down to the ground; The lane on the back-ſide of the Counter leading toward St. *Mary Overy's* ſtairs burn'd and ſhatter'd on both ſides of the way as far as St. *Mary Overy's* Church, which was with much difficulty preſerved after the fire had taken hold of the Chancel, and damaged it conſiderably, Chain-gate, The Market-houſe, Fowl-lane, Angel-Court, Three-Crown-Court, the Counter and Counter-Lane, &c. all burn'd to the ground, only one houſe preſerved as it were in the midſt of the Fire.

It is a difficult matter by ſurveying the ruines to compute the number of houſes burn'd and demoliſhed, but by a general eſtimate they are imagined to be near a thouſand, though I confeſs I cannot gueſs them to be above five or ſix hundred, the vacancy of ground being as I conceive about three hundred paces in length and near half that in breadth, on moſt of which ground the houſes ſtood very thick.

Thus in the ſpace of twenty hours has this fierce and terrible fire impoveriſh'd ſome hundreds of families, who had all their ſubſtance ſwept away in a moment, and many of them expoſed to the kindneſs of their friends or the charity of ſtrangers; but how it began remains as yet doubtful; the very next neighbours knowing nothing of it, and though the Reader may expect to have his curioſity ſatisfied in this particular, I ſhall not attempt to traduce one man to pleaſure another; howſoever it came about, I am ſure it was an Omnipotent hand that ſuffered it, and therefore as thoſe poor ſouls that are undone by it, cannot but find pitty from the good, ſo I hope they will meet with relief from the wealthy, whom nevertheleſs I caution to beware of Vagabonds, that wander the countrey under the pretence of being ruin'd thereby, though no way concern'd therein.

FINIS.